

State Senator

ED MEYER

2009
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



**Representing Branford, Durham, Guilford,
Killingworth, Madison & North Branford**

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**TO SIGN-UP FOR MY
E-NEWSLETTER, VISIT:**

Protecting Families, Seniors, Small Businesses and Our Communities

The budget battle dominated the headlines at the Capitol for much of the year. Thankfully we were able to pass a budget that closes the deficit while protecting Connecticut families and our schools from the recession. We cut spending by more than \$3 billion, made smart investments in our economy. As the recession ends, I will continue working to help stabilize Connecticut's economy and grow jobs.



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State Senator Ed Meyer

MY PRIORITY:

Protecting Families, Seniors, Small Businesses and Our Communities

The Fight for a Fair Budget

In September, the General Assembly and Governor Rell agreed on a budget for the next two years. The compromise budget includes more than \$3 billion in spending cuts—the largest reduction in state history. We did it by cutting costs in every agency and all parts of government.

At the same time, we were able to protect middle-class families, the elderly, children and the poor from devastating cuts to critical services. Thanks to Democrats' efforts, the LIFE STAR medical helicopter will continue to save lives, and college students will have access to financial aid.

Democrats also made the tax code fairer for working families and the middle class by raising revenues from joint filers making more than \$1 million a year. We also reduced the state inheritance tax.

The budget isn't perfect but it will help stabilize Connecticut's economy and help families survive this historic state deficit.

Small Businesses: The Backbone of Connecticut's Economy

This past legislative session we took important steps to help protect small businesses and their workers from the recession.

A recession is the wrong time to eliminate state support for small businesses. That's why we opposed efforts to shut down business incubators, economic assistance grants and supply-chain initiatives—all of which help businesses boost productivity and grow jobs.

Additionally, we addressed one of the largest challenges facing small businesses—the cost of health care. We passed a bill that would have given businesses access to the state health insurance pool, lowering premiums and saving employees and employers money. Unfortunately the governor vetoed this bill. We will take it up again next year.